

Geographic Review Panel 4 – San Joaquin River

Proposal number: 2001-I206

Short Proposal Title: Master River Teacher Program

- 1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region.** Panel agrees with Staff Review that this teacher education and outreach proposal for the San Joaquin River could support CALFED ERP Strategic Goals A, B, and D and is consistent with CVPIA riparian restoration efforts on the upper San Joaquin River. This program will meet the following CALFED education goal as described in the PSP.
- 2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region.** This is a proposed second phase to provide environmental awareness and education to the local community by training up to 30 teachers on local and regional environmental issue. The first phase of the project was to create interpretive information on the upper San Joaquin River resource and the changes that it has gone through. This effort also has potential linkages to the current riparian restoration efforts.
- 3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner.** The biggest criticism of this proposal is that there was little discussion of curriculum and subject matter, which could either make or break the effort. Also, only three months are devoted to curriculum development, which seems too short unless they are already far along on this, but this was not indicated. Also, the curriculum will need to be fairly in depth considering the number of lectures, field studies, and research projects that are projected. Perhaps a reasonable approach would be to fund the project in phases, with the first phase being curriculum development, so that the adequacy of the material and message could be evaluated before expenditure of the remaining ~\$100,000.
- 4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project.** The applicant has developed a highly successful docent and volunteer program for the San Joaquin River Parkway. They appear qualified to prepare a teacher curriculum, but no draft curriculum was included.
- 5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance).** This project appears to have the backing of several education institutions; however, none are providing any supporting funding.
- 6. Cost.** The costs seem high for training 30 teachers.
- 7. Cost sharing.** No; however it appears from the proposal there is some inkind services being provided, though specific ones are not listed.

8. Additional comments. The part of the program relating to research is particularly unclear. Grade school and high school teachers are not necessarily researchers. Consequently, their ability to design and/or implement useful research studies is questionable. It is also unclear that a need exists for this extensive type of training for teachers or to how it would related to their existing required school curricula.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium low

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: The implementation of this program has the potential to benefit long-term appreciation of the river ecosystem. However, due to concerns noted above about lack of a specific curriculum and the amount of time allotted for curriculum development, the panel recommends funding Task 1 with review before additional funding is granted. A significant portion of the program was very unclear in the proposal.